UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

ANNE FLORENCE ANDRE-PEARSON,

Plaintiff,

VS.

Hon. Paul Maloney Magistrate Judge Joseph G. Scoville Case No. 1:12-cy-01223

GRAND VALLEY HEALTH PLAN, INC. a Michigan Corporation

Defendant.

MICHELLE M. MCLEAN (P71393)
JOEL W. BAAR (P56796)
MICHAEL J. DISTEL (P43814)
BOLHOUSE, BAAR & LEFERE, P.C.
Attorney for Plaintiff
Grandville State Bank Building
3996 Chicago Drive, SW
Grandville, MI 49418
michellem@bolhouselaw.com
joelb@bolhouselaw.com
michaelj@bolhouselaw.com

MICHAEL A. ALAIMO (P29610)
BRIAN M. SCHWARTZ (P69018)
MILLER CANFIELD PADDOCK & STONE PLC
Attorneys for Defendant
150 West Jefferson, Suite 2500
Detroit, Michigan 48226
(313)963-6420
alaimo@millercanfield.com
schwartzb@millercanfield.com

DEFENDANT'S OBJECTIONS TO THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S OCTOBER 18, 2013 ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR LEAVE TO AMEND COMPLAINT

Defendant Grand Valley Health Plan ("GVHP"), through its undersigned counsel, and pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 72 and E.D. Mich. L.R. 72.1, objects to the Magistrate Judge's October 18, 2013 Order because it permits Plaintiff to file an Amended Complaint asserting an ERISA denial of benefit claim that, in part, is subject to dismissal because of the applicable statute of limitations as well as Plaintiff's failure to exhaust her administrative remedies. As set forth in the attached brief, the Magistrate Judge's Order is clearly erroneous and contrary to law and should be reversed.

WHEREFORE, GVHP requests that the Court sustain these objections to the Magistrate Judge's Order and enter an Order ruling that (a) Plaintiff's Amended Complaint is limited to

those services covered by Plaintiff's second-level appeal, which relates solely to claims incurred for non-emergency, non-preauthorized treatment outside GVHP's service area at St. Mary's Hospital and the Mayo Clinic from 9/14/11 to 9/21/11 and 10/10/11 to 10/17/11 and (b) Plaintiff may not recover for attorney fees incurred during the claim and appeal process.

Respectfully submitted

Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. By /s/ Brian M. Schwartz (P69018) Attorneys for Defendant 150 West Jefferson, Suite 2500 Detroit, MI 48226 313-963-6420; FAX 313-496-8451

Dated: October 31, 2013 <u>schwartzb@millercanfield.com</u>

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 31, 2013, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using the ECF system which will send notification to:

Michelle Marie McLean <u>michellem@bolhouselaw.com</u>

/s/Brian M. Schwartz
Brian M. Schwartz (P69018)
MILLER, CANFIELD, PADDOCK
AND STONE, P.L.C.
Attorneys for Defendant
150 West Jefferson, Suite 2500
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 963-6420
schwartzb@millercanfield.com